

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/510,521

Examiner

Minh D. A

Applicant(s)

LACOSTE ET AL.

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/4/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Shih-Chao Chen
SHIH-CHAO CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Abstract:

A device of a plasma (5) for confinement of a plasma within a housing (1), comprising creation means for creating a magnetic field, said means being a series of permanent magnets (3) for creation of a magnetic field presenting an alternating multi-polar magnetic structure to the plasma and the magnets (3) restrict the plasma to a large volume, the magnets begin distributed in a discontinuous around the volume end said magnets (3) arc discharge, a distance within the housing at a separation from the walls of the housing by means of support shafts (4).

The changes above have been provided to improve the clarification of the claim language and claims have been amended to correct a typographical error. Since the changes are minor and are intended merely to improve the legibility of the claims, obtaining authorization from application was not viewed as necessary.

Remarks

2. The changes above have been provided to improve the clarification of the abstract. Since the changes are minor and are intended merely to improve the legibility of the abstract, obtaining authorization from application was not viewed as necessary.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

Prior art does not teach that, the magnets being discontinuously distributed around the volume, and wherein the magnets are arranged inside the chamber, at a distance from a walls of the chamber held in place by support rods, the support rods extending along the axis of magnetisation of the magnets and being arranged so that , the support rods are centred on the-poles of the permanent magnets, such that the walls are outside an effective influence area of the magnets in combination with all limitations recited in independent claim 1.

The remaining dependent claims 2-19 are allowable for at least above reason.

Prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. None of record prior arts stands alone or combination with the others discloses all limitations required in claim invention.

Citation of relevant prior art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Shintani et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,076,483) discloses a plasma processing apparatus using a partition panel.

Prior art Keller et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,051,151) discloses an apparatus and method of producing a negative ion plasma.

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Prior art Lai (U.S. Patent No. 6,683,425) discloses a null field magnetron apparatus with essentially flat target.

Prior art Tzatzov et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,436,252) discloses method and apparatus for magnetron sputtering.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu A whose telephone number is (571) 272-1817. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30 AM-2:45 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Owens Douglas W can be reached on (571) 272-1662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Examiner

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7/18/07

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